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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/777,889	02/07/2001	Joseph M. Cannon	Cannon 112-102	3320

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EXAMINER

BEHULU, ALEMAYEHU

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2682

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/777,889

Applicant(s)

CANNON ET AL.

Examiner

Alemayehu Behulu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claim 1- 4, 6-8 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsukada (U.S. Patent No. 4,650,931).

Referring to claim 1 above, Tsukada teaches a method of answering incoming call at cordless telephone comprising steps of: a first party answering the incoming call at a handset of the cordless telephone, the handset being at a location separate from a base unit of the cordless telephone (column 2, lines 42-53), the first party alerting a second party, by initiating intercom connection between the handset and the base unit, while the incoming call is automatically placed on hold status (column 3, lines 8-16 and column 8, lines 51-58) and the second party is accepting the incoming call at the base unit terminating the hold status (column 8, lines 28-34 and 38-50).

Referring to claim 2 above, Tsukada teaches the first party accepting the incoming call by terminating the hold status (column 8, lines 28-38 and column 6, lines 25-29).

Referring to claim 3 above, Tsukada teaches a method of answering incoming call at cordless telephone comprising steps of: a first party answering the incoming call at the base unit of the cordless telephone, the handset being at a location separate from a base unit of the cordless (column 2, lines 42-53), the first party alerting a second party, by initiating intercom connection between the base unit and the handset, while the incoming call is automatically placed on hold status (column 3, lines 8-16 and column 5, lines 1 – 16) and the second party is accepting the incoming call at the handset by terminating the hold status (column 2, lines 41-46 and column 3, lines 16-35).

Referring to claim 4 above, Tsukada teaches a method in claim 3 wherein the first party accepts the incoming call by terminating the hold status (column 6, lines 30-34 and column 8, lines 25-50).

Referring to claim 6 above, Tsukada teaches a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operation at base station (see figure 1, number 2 and column 4, lines 26-53), at least one cordless telephone handset for communicating with base station, each including second control circuitry for controlling operations at handset (see figure 1, number 1 column 4, lines 26-53), and first and second control circuitry operating in response to indication of an intercom communication at one of base station and handset to place an active at least one of base station and handset on hold during intercom communication (figure 2-4 and column 4, lines 13-29).

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Referring to claim 7 above, Tsukada teaches the system in which first control circuitry causes an active call to be placed on hold when an intercom communication is initiated during an active call and initiates an intercom communication between base unit and handset (figure 4, number 21, 22 and figure 3, number 232).

Referring to claim 8 above, Tsukada teaches the system in which first control circuitry causes an active call to be re-engaged when base unit or handset terminates intercom communication (figure 4, number 21, 22 and figure 3, number 232).

Referring to claim 15 above, Tsukada teaches cordless telephone base station comprising: a controller (figure 2, number 140), a transceiver (figure 2, 100), an intercom indicator (figure 4, number 21 and column 3, lines 4-16), wherein when an intercom indication signal is received during an active call, active call is placed on hold and an intercom communication is initiated (column 5, lines 1-16), when intercom indicator is activated during an active call active call is placed on hold and an intercom communication is initiated (column 5, lines 4-16)

Referring to claim 16 above, Tsukada teaches wherein controller causes an active call to be re-engaged and causes intercom communication to end when intercom indicator is activated during an active call or an intercom initiation signal is received during an active call (figure 4, number 22 and column 3, lines and 35-41).

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Referring to clam 17 above, Tsukada teaches cordless telephone handset comprising: a controller (figure 3, number 240), a speaker/microphone phone (column 3, lines 1-16), a transceiver (figure 3, number 200), an intercom indicator (figure 4, number 21), when intercom indicator is activated during an active call, active call is placed on hold and an intercom communication is initiated (column 5, lines 4-16), wherein when an intercom indication signal is received during an active call, active call is placed on hold and an intercom communication is initiated (column 5, lines 4-16).

Referring to clam 18 above, Kunihiro teaches cordless telephone handset, wherein controller causes an active call to be re-engaged and causes intercom communication to end when intercom indicator is activated during an active call or an intercom initiation signal is received during and active call (figure 4, number 22 and column 3, lines and 35-41).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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2. Claim 5, 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukada (U.S. Patent No. 4,650,931) further in view of Kunihiro (U.S. Patent No. 5,014,295).

Referring to claim 5 above, Tsukada teaches a method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone (column 2, lines 42 – 46), first party answering the incoming call at the handset of the cordless telephone, the first handset being at a location separate from a base unit of the cordless telephone (column 2, lines 42-53), the first party alerting a second party, by initiating intercom connection between the first handset and the base unit, while the incoming call is automatically placed on hold status (column 3, lines 8-16 and column 8, lines 51-58), and the first party is accepting the incoming call at the handset terminating the hold status (column 8, lines 28-34 and 38-50), but fails to teach a method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone with multiple handsets, the second handset being at a location separate from a base unit of the cordless telephone and first handset, initiating intercom connection between the first handset and the second handset, the second party is accepting the incoming call at the handset. However, Kunihiro teaches a method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone with multiple handsets (figure 1, 3, and column 15, lines 22-33), first party answering the incoming call at the first handset of the cordless telephone while the second handset being at a location separate from a base unit of the cordless telephone and first handset (figure 7A, label t1), the first party alerting a second party, by initiating intercom connection between the first handset and the second handset (column 7, lines 1 – 4 and column 8, lines 30-34), the second party is accepting the incoming call at the handset

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(figure 8, label t5). Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Tsukada with Kunihiro in order to make a base unit and plural handsets available for accepting an incoming call and dedicating a handset one at a time by using functions such as intercom and hold.

Referring to claim 9 above, Tsukada teaches a cordless telephone system comprising: a base station (figure 1, number 2) including first control circuitry (figure 2, number 140), placing an active call on hold during intercom communication (figure 4 and column 5, lines 4-16), but fails to teach more than one handset controlling circuitry. However Kunihiro, teaches controlling operations at base station, at least a first and second cordless telephone handsets (figure 1, number 1A-1H) for communicating with base station including second and third control circuitry (figure 3, numbers 140 and column 6, lines 7-12) for controlling operations at first and second handsets, and first, second and third circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at base station or one of first and second handsets to (column 20, lines 65-68 and column 21, lines 1-10). Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Tsukada with Kunihiro in order to make a base unit and plural handsets available for accepting an incoming call and dedicating a handset one at a time by using functions such as intercom and hold.

Referring to claim 10 above Tsukada teaches placing an active call on hold during intercom communication during an active call (figure 4 and column 5, lines 4-16), but fails to teach more than intercom initiation between more than one handset. However ,

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Kunihiro teaches the system in which first control circuitry intercom communication is initiated between base unit and at least a first and second handsets (column 6, lines 7-12 and 66-68, column 7, lines 1-4, also column 20, lines 65-68 and column 21, lines 1-10). Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Tsukada with Kunihiro in order to make a base unit and plural handsets available for accepting an incoming call and dedicating a handset one at a time by using functions such as intercom and hold.

Referring to claim 11 and 14 above, Tsukada teaches wherein controller causes an active call to be re-engaged and causes intercom communication to end when intercom indicator is activated during an active call or an intercom initiation signal is received during and active call (figure 4, number 22 and column 3, lines and 35-41), but fails to teach more than one handset. However, Kunihiro teaches the system in which first control circuitry causes an active call to be re-engaged when base unit or one of at least a first and handset terminates intercom communication (column 21, lines 42-65). Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Tsukada with Kunihiro in order to make a base unit and plural handsets available for accepting an incoming call and dedicating a handset one at a time by using functions such as intercom and hold.

Referring to claim 12 above, Tsukada teaches placing an active call on hold during intercom communication (figure 4 and column 5, lines 4-16), but fails to teach more than intercom initiation between more than one handset . However, Kunihiro teaches

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telephone system comprising a base station (figure 1, number 2) including first control circuitry (figure 1, number 24) for controlling operations at base station and separate intercom buttons for each handsets (column 6, lines 35-43 and line 66-68 also, column 7, lines 1-4), at least a first and second cordless telephone handsets (figure 1, number 1A-1H) for communicating with base station including second and third control circuitry (figure 3, numbers 140 and column 6, lines 7-12) for controlling operations at first and second handsets and a separate intercom buttons for base station and each other handsets (column 6, lines 7-12), and first, second and third circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at base station and first and second handsets (figure 3, column 20, lines 65-68 and column 21, lines 1-10). Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Tsukada with Kunihiro in order to make a base unit and plural handsets available for accepting an incoming call and dedicating a handset one at a time by using functions such as intercom and hold.

Referring to claim 13 above, Tsukada teaches placing an active call on hold during intercom communication (figure 4 and column 5, lines 4-16), but fails to teach intercom communication between more than intercom one handset. However, Kunihiro teaches the system in which first control circuitry intercom communication is initiated between base unit and at least a first and second handsets (column 6, lines 7-12 and 66-68, column 7, lines 1-4, also column 20, lines 65-68 and column 21, lines 1-10). Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Tsukada with Kunihiro in order to make a base unit and plural handsets

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available for accepting an incoming call and dedicating a handset one at a time by using functions such as intercom and hold.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nealon et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,463,659 Apparatus and Method of Configuring a Cordless Telephone for Operating in a Frequency Hopping

Shimada Patent No. 4,882,746 Cordless Telephone System

Iyengar et al. Patent No. 6,349,213 Apparatus for enhancing voice Quality in Multiple Cordless Handset Environment and Method

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alemayehu Behulu whose telephone number is 703-305-4828. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 703-308-6739. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



AB

NGUYENT.VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER